

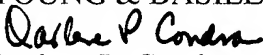
REMARKS

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested prior to the first Office Action and prior to the calculation of the filing fee for the subject application. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1 - 8 and 10 - 12 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 4, and 6 - 8 have been amended. Claim 9 has been cancelled.

The Abstract is the same as on the International Patent Application except that reference numbers have been deleted.

It is submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Consideration of the application as amended is requested. It is submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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DPC/dge